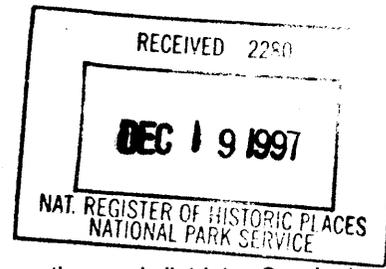


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1646

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
other names/site number St. Scholastica Academy, Fine Arts Building / 5FN35.1

### 2. Location

street & number 615 Pike Avenue [N/A] not for publication  
city or town Canon City [N/A] vicinity  
state Colorado code CO county Fremont code 043 zip code 81212

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

Amie Edmund Hartman State Historic Preservation Officer December 3, 1997  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].
- determined eligible for the  
National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].
- determined not eligible for the  
National Register.
- removed from the  
National Register
- other, explain  
See continuation sheet [ ].

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper 1.15.98 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
**Name of Property**

Fremont County, CO  
**County/State**

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing.**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school/education-related  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school/education-related  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/sandstone  
walls Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Asphalt  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building

Fremont County, CO

Name of Property

County/State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record  
# \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

**Periods of Significance**

1897-1947

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person(s)**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Bradbury, D. A.

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other:

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Name of Property

Fremont County, CO  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 478920 4255250  
Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Munch and Sister Jeanne Hegarty

organization St. Scholastic Academy date February 1997

street & number 615 Pike Avenue telephone 719-275-7461

city or town Canon City state CO zip code 81212

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

street & number 7416 North Ridge Boulevard telephone 312-764-5715

city or town Chicago state IL zip code 60645

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 1

---

**DESCRIPTION**

The 1897 East Building (at one time also known as the Main Building and now called the Fine Arts Building) is one of several buildings on the 4.15-acre campus of St. Scholastica Academy. When the school was founded over a century ago, it was located on the edge of Canon City. The town grew northward, surrounding the campus, which now sits amid a middle-class neighborhood of 1930s vintage homes. The building is located near the eastern edge of the campus, next to 7th Street. There are lilac bushes and several large blue spruce, pine, maple and elm trees on the east side. Flower gardens, evergreen shrubs and quartz rocks serve as landscaping on the west and north sides. Benches of hand-hewn stone and concrete are next to the building. A sidewalk wraps around the building and leads to 7th Street. To the north is the (1983) Library/Chapel, to the northwest is the (1980) Gymnasium, to the west is St. Mary's Court (an open courtyard area), and to the south is the (1961) Residence Hall. The campus consists of a large open lawn with trees, shrubs, flower gardens, and small parking areas.

The 62 by 72 foot, East Building is two stories with a raised basement and an attic story, creating four floors of useable space. The building has red brick walls and a locally quarried, rock-faced sandstone foundation. The hipped roof, covered with asphalt shingles, has a plain, boxed cornice with dentilling below. On each slope of the roof is a centrally located, small, hipped roof dormer faced with wooden fishscale shingles. A white cross tops the east dormer. Three brick chimneys with corbelled caps pierce the roof--two on the north slope and one on the west. The east and west sides have central hipped roof projections, while the south side has a recessed central bay. An upper-story stringcourse encircles three sides of the building. Italianate influences are seen in the overhanging eaves; the tall, narrow windows; the arcaded porch; and the tower-like effect of the projecting bays with dormers.

The windows have sandstone lugsills and are wood frame, double hung sash, one-over-one. The windows of the raised basement (or garden level) are straight-headed, while the first and second floor windows are segmentally arched, tall and narrow with a transom light. There is a pair of windows in each dormer and, with the exception of the west side, all the sashes contain a large pane of glass surrounded by smaller panes.

An elaborate Queen Anne porch marks the entrance to the east side of the building. Steps lead to a sandstone staircase with an ornamental metal railing that provides access to the raised porch. Turned colonettes resting on sandstone pillars support the porch roof with its bracketed cornice and two small pediments (faced with fishscale shingles). Lathe-turned balusters form a 25" high balustrade that encircles the porch. From the platform of the porch, a round-arched opening flanked by narrow windows leads to a foyer and the double door entrance. These paneled wood doors with decorative hinges and door knobs are original. The elevated porch platform provides an open area below that allows light to enter the two basement windows. Above the porch are two windows. The fenestration pattern on each side of the projection is the same--a grouping of three windows above three windows.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 2

---

A double sandstone staircase marks the entrance to the south side of the building. A semicircular arch springs from square piers with corbelled capitals and provides access to a foyer and the double leaf entrance of paneled wooden doors with transom. Above the arch are two rows of corbelling that form the wall of a small, inset second-story porch with its paired Tuscan column roof supports. There are two garden-level windows on each side of the staircase and a glazed and panel door beneath the staircase provides access to this lower level. On the west side of the recessed bay, there is a grouping of three windows above three windows. On the east side of the recessed bay are two sets of paired windows above two sets of paired windows.

On the west side, the projecting bay contains three windows on the first floor with a window and a door (accessed via a metal fire escape) on the second story. On each side of the projection and on each floor, there are two widely spaced windows.

Wooden steps lead to a wooden porch and the centrally located entrance of the north side. A segmental arch frames the wood paneled double doors and transom. Above the entry, a small window pierces the wall of the second story. On each side of the small second story window are two sets of paired windows. This window pattern is repeated on the first story. At the garden level, there are three windows on one side of the wood porch and two on the other.

Special interior features include two rooms with pressed tin ceilings; a 1940s mural in the Theology room (Our Lady of Guadalupe); decorative paneled wooden doors with original glass; elaborate door casings with corner blocks; ornate brass hinges, doorknobs and keyhole plates; a carved pine stairway; and (still functioning) decorative cast iron radiators. There are many built-in wooden storage cabinets throughout the building. The rooms on the first and second floor have high ceilings. Many historic religious paintings and statues, once in the original chapel, decorate the building. Several of the paintings were painted by community artist, Sister Celestine Fischer.

The East Building was built in 1897 on the foundations of a badly damaged 1880 building. While this construction was going on with convict labor, the privately-funded O'Reilly Memorial Chapel (with an 1896 cornerstone) was also under construction. The chapel was sited immediately north and after their completion, the two buildings were joined together. A vestibule was created and the double doors on the north side of the East Building were used to gain entrance into the chapel. The portion of the north wall enclosed by the connection was painted. When the chapel was condemned and the vestibule had separated from the East Building, both were razed in the summer of 1979. During the summer of 1980, the paint was stripped from the now re-exposed portion of the north wall. The small wooden porch and steps were built to gain entrance and exit from the double doors on the north side.

Some interior changes also occurred as a result of the razing of the chapel. Before the chapel could be torn down in 1979, there was need to prepare an interim chapel. The walls and doorways of the two reception rooms were made into a single room to serve as a temporary chapel while the new

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 3

---

Library/Chapel building was under construction in 1980-83. These rooms were returned to their original configuration after the new building was completed.

In 1900, the small, ornate porch was added to the east side. (An earlier artist's rendering indicated a full-facade porch on this elevation.)

In 1917 a fire originated in the roof at the base of one of the dormer windows on the south side. There is no evidence of any damage to the exterior of the roof, but some evidence of scorching can still be seen on some interior beams inside the garret/roof trusses. The *Canon City Record* for January 11, 1917 reported that there was no wind and the prompt firemen quickly had it out. The water damage to the interior was extensive, but classes were not interrupted.

There were bridges leading from the East to the (1901) West Building that served as fire escapes. After the West Building was torn down in 1982, the metal fire escape was installed on the west side of the building.

Although there have been both historical and recent modifications to the building, it continues to convey its historic period. The proportion and organization of the facade, the size and shape of windows and door openings, and the massing remain. The building retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, association and feeling.

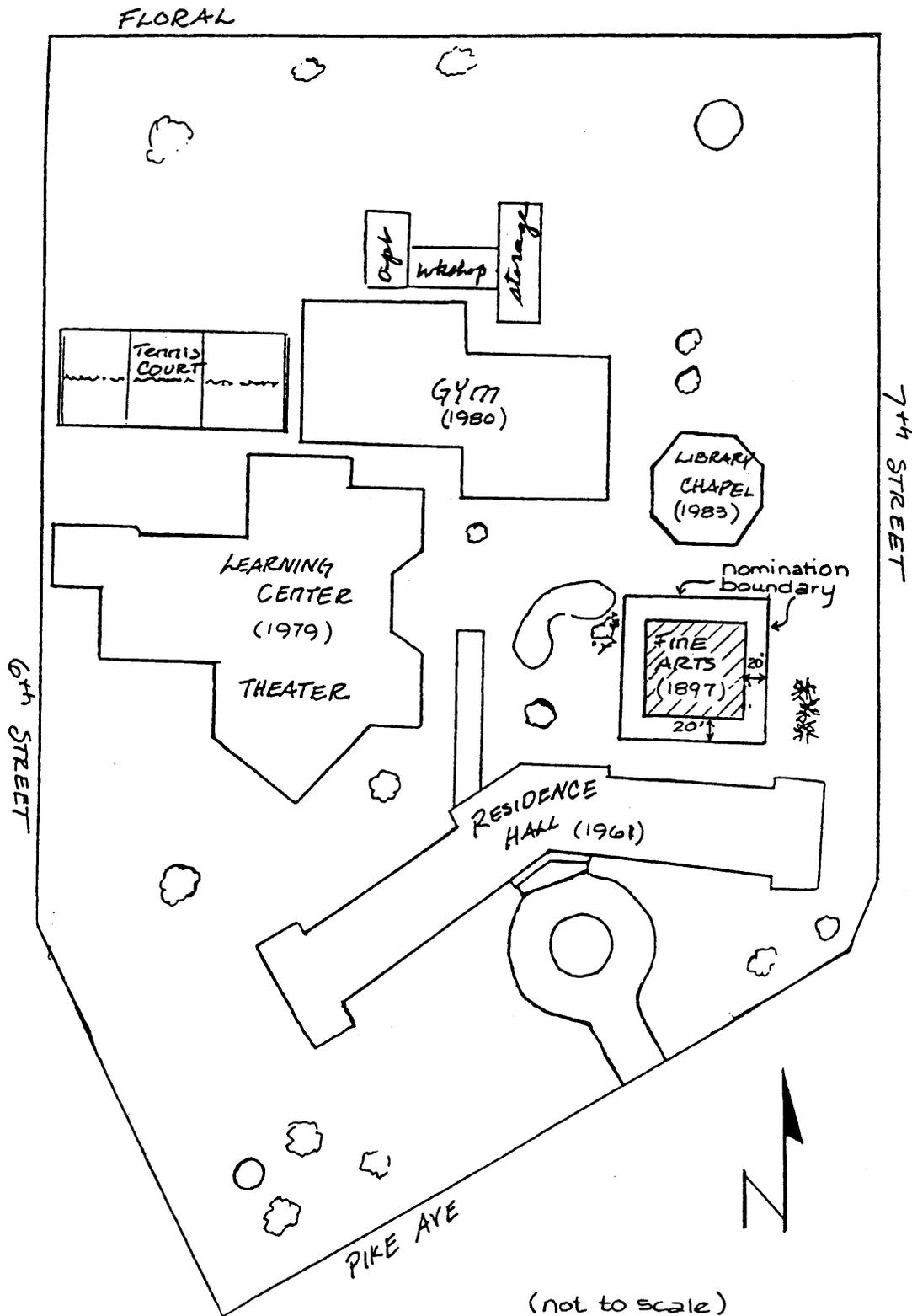
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 4

campus map



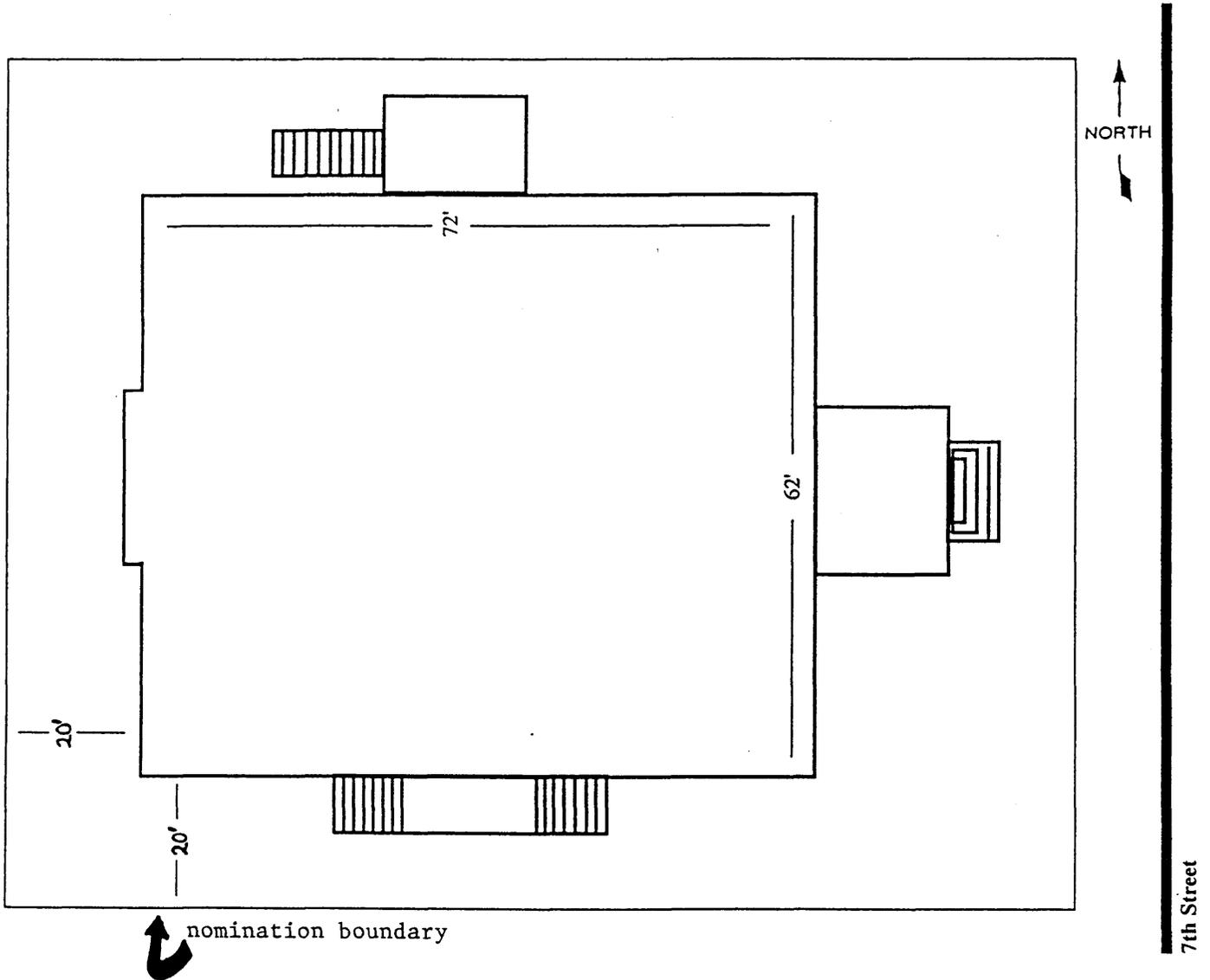
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 5

footprint of building



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 6

---

**SIGNIFICANCE**

The East Building (now called the Fine Arts Building) at St. Scholastica Academy meets criterion A for its association with the history of education in Cañon City. It is the oldest school building in the city, having been used for educational purposes without interruption since its construction in 1897. The academy, a girl's boarding school conducted by the Benedictine Sisters, has been in continuous operation since 1890 and this is the only building remaining from the early years of the institution. The foundation of the building is actually older--dating to 1880, the year the corner stone was laid for the Colorado Collegiate and Military Institute that occupied the site earlier. (The oldest extant *public* school buildings in Cañon City--South Canon High School and Madison School--were constructed in 1924.) The East Building also meets criterion C for its architectural significance as an example of a period of construction. This simply stated building represents Cañon City's late 19th century construction. While the city has much commercial and residential architecture from the last century, this is the only institutional architecture reflecting this period. Although this building continues to be used for educational purposes, the period of significance arbitrarily ends in 1947 in order to comply with the National Register's fifty-year rule. As the building is owned by a religious institution and derives its primary significance from historical importance and architectural distinction, criteria consideration A applies.

-----

The mouth of the grand canyon of the Arkansas River--the site of Cañon City--was a favorite camping ground of the Ute long before the coming of Euro-Americans. Pike and his party camped here in December of 1806. In the spring of 1859, a small village known as Cañon City was established on the north side of the Arkansas River. The town flourished with the influx of gold seekers. The first [public] school district was formed in 1866. "In 1868 Cañon City was offered the choice of the State penitentiary or the State university; it chose the former because it was an established institution and seemed likely to be the better attended." (*The WPA Guide to 1930s Colorado*)

The history of the East Building can be traced back even prior to its 1897 construction and prior to the establishment of Mount St. Scholastica. The building is located on the site of the Colorado Collegiate and Military Institute, the cornerstone of which was laid in 1880. The Colorado Collegiate and Military Institute, a school for boys and girls over the age of 6, ran into financial difficulties and lasted only five years in Cañon City, from 1881 to 1886. When the institute moved to Denver, the land reverted back to the Central Colorado Improvement Co. The largest portion of the land on which the military institute was constructed was sold to Mary Virginia Macon on 22 June 1886 for \$12,000 by Frederic A. Reynolds, James F. Campbell and William H. McClure. On 14 May 1890, Macon sold a parcel of her land to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago for \$15,000. The Sisters, who had first come to Breckenridge in 1886, were looking for a new location and purchased the building and grounds in Cañon City.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 7

---

The Sisters' initial experience on their new campus has gone down into the annals of St. Scholastica history. Sister Josephine Birchmeier, Sister Rita Geary and Sister Maura Daubach were not expected in Cañon City until the latter part of June in 1890, but arrived two weeks earlier on the midnight train. Since no one was there to meet them at the station, they took a hack to the former military institute building where they found no provision and no beds. They slept the first night on the floor, and the next day went into town in search of food. Here, they first encountered what would become many instances of anti-Catholic sentiment in Cañon City. Sister Regina Esser, one of the first students at the Academy to join the Order, recounted the story in *Where There Was Need*: "The Sisters walked down to the business section in search of food. As they walked into the store, the clerk walked to the rear and paid not the slightest attention to the Sisters. This bit of pantomime was repeated in two or three stores, showing the Sisters most unmistakably that they were distrusted, disliked, unwanted." They returned to campus, where they discovered a stray cow that had wandered onto the premises. Seeing this opportunity as Divine Providence, Sister Rita milked the cow and they all had warm milk for their first meal at their new home. Today, to celebrate this bit of Academy history, the preceding year's senior class hides a small, ceramic cow somewhere in the building, and the following year's seniors have the challenge of finding it.

The school opened under the name of Mount Saint Scholastica Academy in September 1890 with a total of 40 students, four Benedictine Sisters as instructors, and one lay teacher. All went well until 1892 when the Sisters suffered a calamity that nearly destroyed the school. The State had authorized the construction of a large irrigation ditch as part of the Colorado-Kansas State Ditch Project to bring water to fields east of town. Prisoners from the State Penitentiary were digging a tunnel under the Hogback (hill) just 800 feet to the west of the building. A huge blast almost unroofed the building, shattered the windows and cracked the walls. Although the building was still standing after the blast, state inspectors found it to be unsafe and ordered it to be torn down. The majority of students were sent to their homes, while the Sisters and the few girls who remained were housed in tents and other temporary rented buildings.

In a history of Mount St. Scholastica written in 1915, the author describes this period between 1893 and 1897 as "one of extreme hardship and trying vicissitudes." "It was truly a crisis in the life of the institution," states the account, "and if to-day it has taken a place in the foremost ranks of educational establishments, we are indebted to the calm and unswerving perseverance of that small band of Sisters, inspired and led on by their brave superior, Sister Mary Rose. With unfaltering faith in the ultimate success of a work undertaken for the greater honor and glory of God, this courageous Sister made her appeal to the state legislature for an appropriation which could indemnify the Sisters at least in part, for their serious loss. Sister Rose soon became a well-known figure at the state house, as her appeal by no means received an immediate response. After many disheartening struggles through which she was helped by some of the most prominent men in the state, the bill passed the legislature in March 1895."

After this lengthy period of controversy and legal wrangling the General Assembly enacted a law (based on State Bill No. 83) which commanded the penitentiary commissioners to rebuild the structure with

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

---

convict labor and materials. For other expenses, they appropriated \$8,000. A new building (72 feet by 62 feet) was erected on the foundation of the original military institute, and the Sisters were able to open doors to classes in September 1897. The O'Reilly Memorial Chapel (once located at the rear of the building) also was completed in 1897.

Within a few short years Mount St. Scholastica bounced back, and a growing enrollment created a new set of problems for the historic building. According to an article from the *Cañon City Record* from 1899, the building was to the point of overcrowding: "The present number of resident students is 57, and consists of young ladies from all parts of Colorado, also a few from more eastern states. Owing to the school's crowded condition since February 1st, the sisters have been refusing admission to all applicants, and only a few day pupils have been accepted this year. Because of the many applications for next year, a new building, 96 by 74 feet, will be completed before September 1900." This new structure would be known as the West Building, while the original structure was called the Main Building or East Building.

During the early 1900s the woman who would later become the first canonized American saint, Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, slept in the East Building during visits to the Cañon City area, where she visited miners. Mother Cabrini's first visit to Colorado began in 1902 and her last was in 1912. The Benedictine Sisters are not sure of the date(s) or year(s) that Mother Cabrini stayed at the Academy, but they do know where she slept: on the second floor of the Fine Arts Building, in the room that is now the Middle School office. The small balcony is attached to this room.

Documentation from an account written around 1910, related in *1500 Years of Benedictine Service*, describes the layout of the East Building. "The first floor of the main building has reception rooms, office, library and orchestra room. On the floor below are a suite of music rooms, kitchen and dining rooms and heating plant. On the second floor are found the pupils' infirmary and dispensary, the Minims' [younger students] dormitory, and the Sisters apartments." Another account from a 24 June 1909 newspaper advertisement states the following about the campus:

Notwithstanding its healthful surroundings ample provision is made in case of illness. Located in the southeast corner, on the second floor of the main building, is a modern, well equipped infirmary. The location exposes the room throughout the day to a continuous flood of sunshine. All buildings are of modern brick construction, equipped with newest appliances. Electric light, the hot-water system of heating, open plumbing and thorough means of ventilation conduce to perfect sanitary conditions. Most complete protection is afforded in case of fire, that there may be no anxiety from this source. Staircases are so located that with outside stairs they afford easy exit. Iron bridges with fire-escape attachments connect the two buildings, in each of which is a standpipe with hose and connections on all floors. There is also a plug in the academy yard.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 9

The fire safety equipment came in handy on 11 January 1917, when a fire broke out on the top floor of the East Building at 8 a.m. The *Cañon City Record* from that date describes the scene:

The fire, it is supposed, caught from the flue just over the sisters' dormitory. Sister M. Gabriella and Sister M. Josephine were helpless in the invalid ward just under the blazing roof but other sisters came quickly to their rescue and they were carried into the west building. Much of the sisters' bedding and wardrobe was water-soaked. High school boys and many men formed themselves into brigades to assist the sisters in carrying the various effects from the burning structure. Because of this aid much property was saved from ruin by water...Many who were at the fire remarked at the perfect calmness of the sisters and the girls. They took it as if such a fire was an every day occurrence. The sisters in the kitchen even kept on with their work with prayers on their lips, declaring that the sisters and the girls would have to eat, fire or no fire.

It has been noted in histories written on St. Scholastica Academy that this spontaneous act of support from the men and boys of Cañon City may have been a sign that anti-Catholic sentiment was on the wane. During World War I prejudice was made apparent when the Ku Klux Klan burned crosses on Skyline Drive, the hillside located directly behind campus.

During the 1930s, the name Mount St. Scholastica was shortened to St. Scholastica Academy. During the Depression, money was tight for the Benedictine Sisters, particularly in 1937 when a polio epidemic quarantined the Academy. As Sister Miriam Russell recalled in a 22 February 1986 story in the *Pueblo Chieftain*, enrollment dropped during the 1930s to only 11 girls. To economize, the Sisters "closed off the top floors and used a classroom for a chapel, which was (at best) somewhat lukewarm. Everything got so cold that even the water in the holy water font froze."

The students' dorm was in the West Building, but the Sisters continued to live on the second and third floors of the East Building until the Residence Hall was built in 1961. At that time the students vacated the West Building for the Residence Hall, and the Sisters moved to the West Building. (Sleeping quarters for the Sisters were in the West Building until 1982, when a new convent across the street was ready for them.) One of the benefits for students when the Sisters moved from the East Building was that now they could use the main stairway at the center of the building, called the "Golden Stairway." It was considered an honor to use these stairs. In the early years, only the Superior could use them, and later only the Sisters. As the years progressed, only seniors could use them, but today all students do.

Upon the recommendation of the Academy's lay board in 1973, an adequacy and safety study of the old academic buildings being used was done by Lamar Kelsey Inc., planning consultants in Colorado Springs. Their analyses of the East and West Buildings and Chapel ranged from structurally sound enough for remodeling (East Building) to structurally unsound (West Building and Chapel). As a result

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 10

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

---

of the study, a Facilities Master Plan for the improvement and development of the school facilities was adopted in the spring of 1974.

The East Building underwent extensive remodeling in 1978, under the direction of Brother Felix Bland, that included plastering, paneling, plumbing, wiring and carpeting. Brother Felix and then principal, Sister Karen Bland, OSB, were careful to redecorate with carpeting, drapes, wallpaper and paint that retained the building's Victorian-era charm. One of the building's interior changes at this time included converting the basement kitchen into an art room. The building then provided classrooms, offices and a small chapel on the first floor, the Middle School art rooms on the second floor, and music rooms in the basement. The following summer (1979), the Chapel which had separated from the East Building was razed. In 1981 the West Building was razed. As the sole historic building remaining, the East Building took on the name of the Fine Arts Building. It has continued to the present day to provide administrative offices and classrooms. The Music Department, Art Department, Social Studies/History classes, and most of the middle school classes are in the building. The Heritage (Archives) Room, Admissions and Development Offices are also in the building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

Section number 9 Page 11

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- "96 years in Canon City: Benedictine nuns marking 100 year's service in state." *The Pueblo Chieftain*, 22 February 1986, p 8A.
- Beck, Sister Celine, OSB. Interview, 19 September 1996. St. Scholastica Academy Heritage Room, Cañon City.
- "Benedictine Sisters founded St. Scholastica Academy." *The Florence Citizen*, 22 September 1960.
- Blumenson, John J.-G. *Identifying American Architecture*. Revised ed. Nashville, Tennessee: American Association for State and Local History, 1981.
- Campbell, Sister Amy, OSB. Letter, 14 June 1992.
- "Changing lives at Scholastica: Academy thrives on educating." *The Denver Post*, 25 December 1988, p 1C.
- Denver, Colorado. Colorado Historical Society, Preservation Office. Inventory Form for St. Scholastica Academy (5FN35), 1974.
- Denver, Colorado. Colorado Historical Society, Preservation Office. State Register nomination for Madison School (5FN1233), 1996.
- Farnum, Mabel. *The Life of Mother Cabrini: American Saint*. New York: Didier Publishers, 1947, p. 122.
- "Fire damages East Building of Academy this morning." *Cañon City Record*, 11 January 1917, p.1.
- Harrison, Sister M. Genevieve, OSB. *Where There Was Need: A History of the Chicago Benedictine Sisters from 1861 to 1965*. Chicago: American Benedictine Academy, 1965.
- Hartman, Emily L. *1500 Years of Benedictine Service: History of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago in Colorado (1886-1980)*. Cañon City: St. Scholastica Academy, 1980.
- "A look back into history." *The Pueblo Chieftain*, 13 November 1960.
- "Look back into history: Civil war times saw women in institute," *Cañon City Daily Record*, 14 November 1979, p. 25.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 12 Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

---

McGinn, Elinor, and Fisher, Cara D. *If Walls Could Speak*. Cañon City: Fremont-Custer Historical Society, Inc., 1984.

McKernan, Father Justin, OSB. *St. Michael's Church: 65 Years of Service to Cañon City: 1880-1945*. Cañon City: St. Michael's Parish, 1945.

Mount St. Scholastica's Academy, Cañon City, Colorado, Prospectus of Equipment, Departments and Studies, Expenses, Regulations, Advantages, Etc." 1915-1916; Jubilee Edition, 1890-1915.

Pearce, Sarah J. *A Guide to Colorado Architecture*. Denver: The State Historical Society of Colorado, 1983.

Smith, Doris S. Letter, 15 April 1974.

"St. Scholastica Academy in Cañon began as cadet school." *Pueblo Star-Journal and Sunday Chieftain*, 13 November 1960, p. 2C.

"St. Scholastica Academy celebrates 98 years." *Cañon City Daily Record*, 30 May 1988.

Uniform Contract from American Institute of Architects and National Association of Builders. Signed and stamped by G.M. Gryson, Architect, Hagerman Building, Colorado Springs. 14 June 1911.

Van Alstyne, Sister Dorothy, OSB. "Work Done on Buildings and Grounds by John Milder: 1978-1986."

Workers of the Writer's Program of the Work Projects Administration, comp. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Colorado*. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1987.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 13 Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

---

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The footprint of the building plus twenty (20) feet.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary was drawn to include only the East Building on a small parcel of land within the campus and to exclude the surrounding buildings and landscape features, which are less than fifty years old.

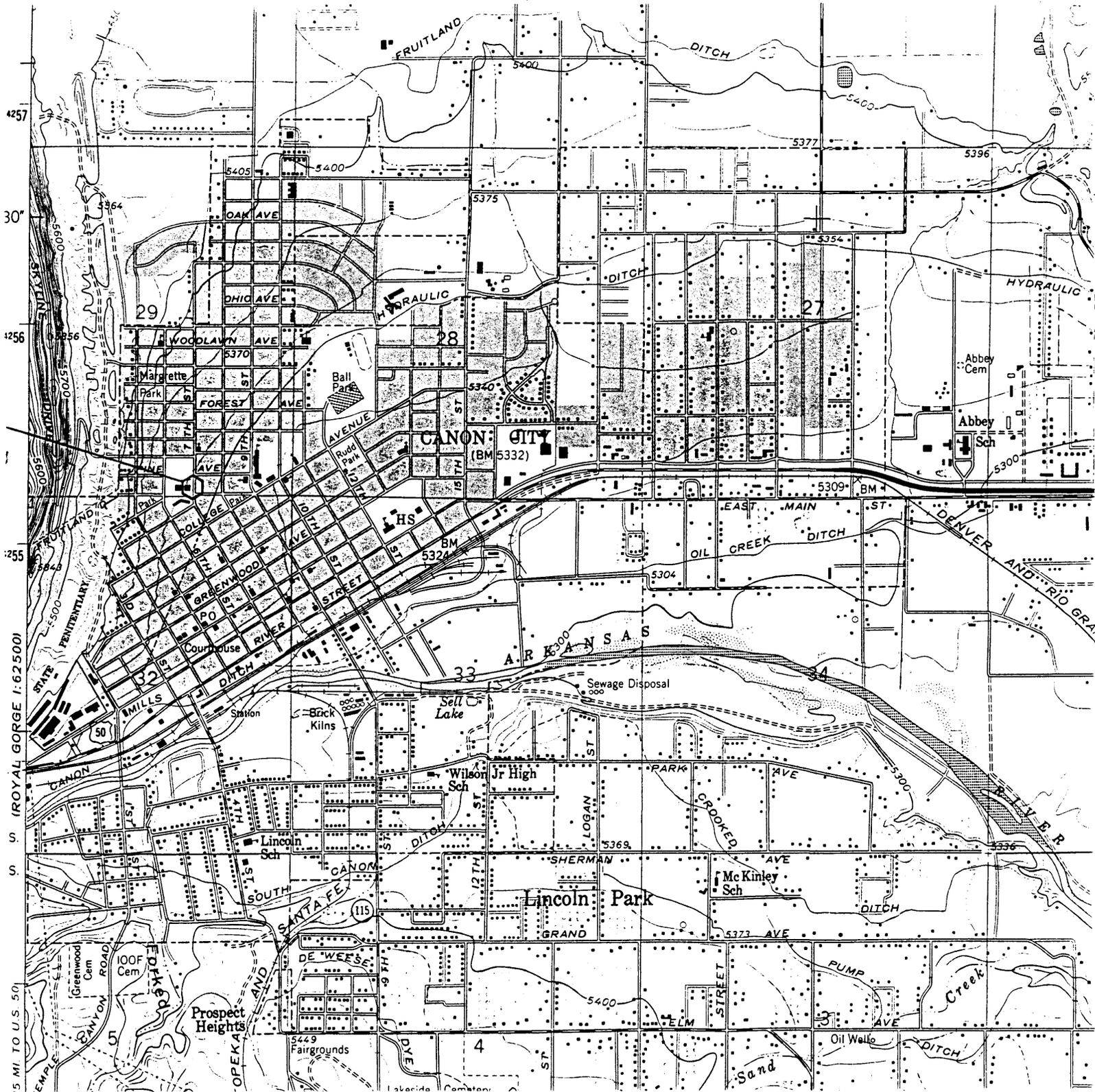
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

Section number 10 Page 14

U.S.G.S. map - Canon City Quad



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page 15

Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
Fremont County, Colorado

---

**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

name of property: Mount Saint Scholastica Academy, East Building  
city, county and state: Canon City, Fremont County, Colorado  
photographer: Jennifer Munch  
date of photograph: October 1996  
location of original negatives: Development Office, St. Scholastica Academy

<u>photo #</u>	<u>description</u>
#1	east side of building; camera facing west
#2	west side of building; camera facing east
#3	north side of building; camera facing southwest
#4	south side of building; camera facing north
#5	close-up of porch on east side; camera facing west
#6	interior detail--pressed metal ceiling
#7	interior detail--carved pine stairway